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Message Text

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64
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 SCCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

ACDA-10 /095 W
---------- 095006
R 081900Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2650
INFO USDEL ASWAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS CAIRO 2563

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO PLO RAID IN TEL AVIV

REF: A. CAIRO 2534 B. TEL AVIV 1476

FROM MAESTRONE

1. MAR 8 PRESS COVERAGE OF TEL AVIV SAVOY INCIDENT REVEALED NO FURTHER OFFICIAL GOE COMMENT IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENTIAL PRESS ADVISOR TAHSIN BASHIR'S MAR 7 STATEMENT (REFTEL A) TO EFFECT THAT ASSAULT "REFLECTS EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST." EDITORIALS CITED INCIDENT AS SUPPORTING GOE VIEW THAT RECOGNITION OF PLO AS PARTICIPATING PARTY IN ME SETTLEMENT WILL REMOVE CAUSES OF VIOLENCE.

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2. PRESS TREATMENT VARIES FROM ONE PAPER TO ANOTHER,

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BUT CONTINUES TO AVOID SENSATIONALISM AND EMOTIONAL TREATMENT OF SUBJECT. ALL PAPERS, HOWEVER, MENTION "MAXIMUM STATE OF EMERGENCY" THAT INCLUDED EVACUATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN LEBANON. BOTH AL AHRAM AND AL GOMHOURIYA QUOTE RADIO TEL AVIV AS SAYING THAT ATTACHERS CAME FROM LEBANON. VESSEL ITSELF, ACCORDING TO AL AHRAM, CONTAINED ON EVIDENCE OF ORIGIN EXCEPT "MAY GOD BE WITH YOU" SLOGAN AND TWO COLOR PHOTOS OF ARAFAT. WEEKLY AKHBAR AL YOM REPORTS THAT VESSEL CONTAINED THE SIGNS, "EGYPTIAN NAVY" AND "KISSINGER'S MISSION WILL FAIL." PAPER ADDS THAT ASSAULT SOUGHT TO BLAST KISSINGER' ME PEACH MISSION. AKHBAR AL YOM ALSO QUOTES ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT ONLY SURVIVING ATTACKER TESTIFIED AFTER HIS CAPTURE THAT GROUP CAME FROM ALEXANDRIA AND CAIRO, BUT LATER ADMITTED HE HAD LIED.

3. IN HIS "NEWS OF TOMORROW" WEEKLY COLUMN, AKHBAR AL YOM EDITOR AMIN ON MARCH 8 PREDICTS THAT SAVOY OPERATION "WILL NOT AFFECT ASWAN TALKS" AND REFLECTS STATE DEPARTMENT "OPTIMISM" THAT "AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED IN ASWAN ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM PASSES AND OIL FIELDS BEFORE MID-MARCH."
EILTS

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